the country by augmenting LPG availability which is expected to accrue by commissioning of new sources and augmenting LPG production at some of the existing sources. Plans have also been drawn to augment LPG import capacity by commissioning new LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore.

[English]

Coal Based Methane Blocks

9. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether management of coal based methane blocks has now come under Petroleum Ministry and reasons therefor;

(b) if so, the details of coal based methane blocks handed over for management to petroleum Ministry;

(c) the details of project awarded to private sector by coal India and investment made thereunder;

(d) the number of coal based methane blocks available for exploitation and details of foreign direct investment proposals cleared/under consideration; and

(e) the details of action taken/proposed on recommendations of the Strategic Planning Group on Exploration of Coal Based Methane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Capital Expenditure

10. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Capital expenditure of the Government has registered an increase from 3.6% of the GDP in 1991 to 5.9 per cent of GDP in 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down this expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The capital expenditure of the Government was 5.9 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 and as per the revised estimates it was 3.7 per cent of GDP in 1995-96.

(b) and (c). Does not arise. In fact capital expenditure of Government must rise in infrastructure sector.

Asian Development Bank Assistance

11. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has request the Asian Development Bank to provide financial assistance for housing projects specially for the persons belonging to the economically weaker sections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The Asian Development Bank has been requested to provide loan assistance of the undermentioned projects in the housing and urban development sectors :-

I. Line of credit for executing housing schemes in Tamil Nadu.

A project proposal to secure line of credit from ADB for executing housing projects in the State of Tamil Nadu by Tamil Nadu Housing Board has been posed to ADB. The project with a total project cost of Rs.381.11 crores, envisages to implement shelter and infrastructure schemes in 36 small and medium towns in Tamil Nadu. A total area of 1554.93 Hectares is proposed to be developed for carving out 62,339 residential plots, out of which 34,286 dots will be meant for EWS and LIG categories. The response of ADB is still awaited.

II. Financial Support to HUDCO for Urban Development.

A proposal seeking ADB loan of Rs.5150 millions (around US $ 170 millions) to HUDCO for augmentation of infrastructure in existing towns/development of new towns, building material industry building centres, and integrated project for shelter basic services and environmental improvement of slums has been posed to the ADB. Out of the total component, Rs.1650 million are meant for the Integrated project for shelter basic services and slum improvement programmes.

III. Assistance to National Housing Bank.

The National Housing Bank has sought assistance of US $260 million from Asian Development Bank for providing refinance assistance to eligible institutions towards housing loans, development of Secondary Mortgage Market and refinance to Regional Rural Banks for rural housing loans.

IV. Assistance to Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC)

ADB has approved a loan of US $ 20 million to Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. for various housing projects in the State of Karnataka, of which at least 50% shall be used for providing financial assistance to households from valuable income groups.